DEMOCRATIC
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WHO KILLED JOHN LENNOX?

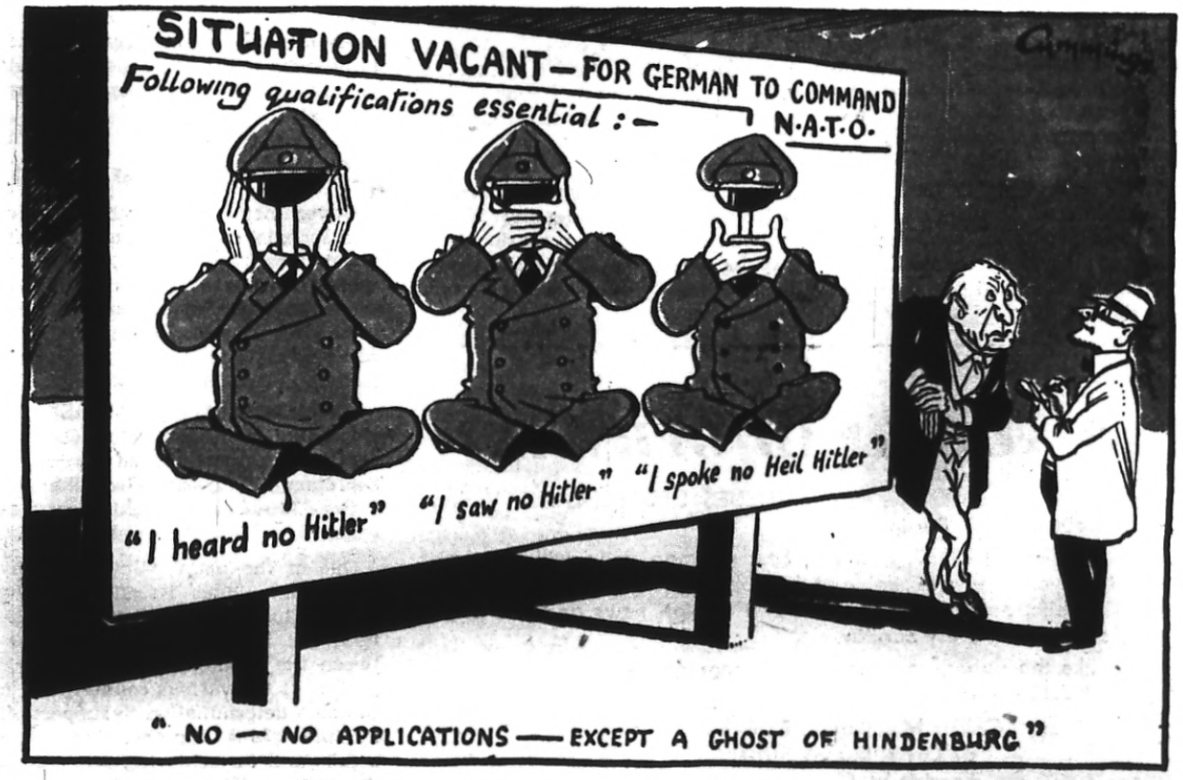
Does any reader of GERMAN REPORT know of a British subject named John Lennox, sentenced to death by a Nazi special court on November 11th 1943, and probably executed a few days later?

The only information about John Lennox available in the fragmentary nazi court records in Berlin is the fact of his death sentence, passed by a nazi "People's Court", which was exclusively concerned with political offences against Hitler.

But much more information is available on the man mainly responsible for Mr. Lennox's death. The man responsible is called Dr Liebau, and he is today Senior Public Prosecutor in the district court at Lueneburg in the British Zone of West Germany.

During the nazi period Dr Liebau was first district judge in Poznan Special Court, in occupied Poland, where he passed a number of death sentences on Polish resistance fighters. Later he was promoted to the post of "Official for Special Courts" in the Reich Ministry of Justice, where he worked in close cooperation with Roland Freisler, notorious President of the nazi People's Courts, which handled all political cases. In this capacity Dr Liebau prepared the cases against at least 58 persons — Czechs, Poles, Frenchmen, Russians, Dutchmen and the British subject John Lennox.

Dr Liebau is only one of more than 150 leading nazi jurists who today occupy important posts in the West German legal system. More details of these men are given on the next page of this issue.


SITUATION VACANT—FOR GERMAN TO COMMAND N·A·T·O.
Following qualifications essential :—
"I heard no Hitler"
"I saw no Hitler"
"I spoke no Heil Hitler"
"NO — NO APPLICATIONS — EXCEPT A GHOST OF HINDENBURG"

(From "Daily Express" London)

162 NAZI JUDGES BACK AT WORK

The names of 162 leading nazi jurists who are today employed once again in responsible positions in West Germany have been published by the Committee for German Unity in Berlin. The names of these men, and the crimes they committed, have been ascertained from a study of nazi files in the hands of the authorities of the German Democratic Republic.

The men named in the list were responsible for death sentences being passed on 135 Poles, 46 Frenchmen, 100 Czechs, 2 Swedes, 216 Germans and others from nearly every country in Europe.

Amongst the jurists named are Dr Felmy, nazi public prosecutor in occupied Poland, today public prosecutor in Oldenburg, who is named on the Polish War Crimes List No. 80/192; Dr Hallbauer, nazi judge in Prague special court, today district court director in Hamburg, who is named on the Czechoslovak War Crimes List No. S 8/32, and many others sought as war criminals.

The material on these jurists, assembled by the Committee for German Unity, has been submitted to the Legal Committee of the West German Federal Parliament, and to the United Nations Commission for Human Rights.

(The full material is far too voluminous for publication in GERMAN REPORT, but a full English translation of it can be sent to any reader interested.)

West German Workers Elect Left-Wing Council

The ten thousand workers of the Pfaff Sewing-Machine Factory in Kaiserslautern, West Germany, elected a majority of left-wing representatives to their works council in elections held at the end of May. Sixteen of the 31 council members were formerly members of the Communist Party, which was banned last year by the West German Government. In the previous works council members of the Communist Party held only four of the seats.

In other works council elections too former members of the Communist Party, who are today prevented by law from describing themselves as Communists, have had big successes, reported in GERMAN REPORT on May 10th. The "Rheinischer Merkur", generally regarded as Chancellor Adenauer's mouthpiece, has appealed to trade union leaders to join with the employers in taking steps against this free use of democratic voting rights.

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Iceland's fishing fleet now includes five fishing cutters and four netting boats built in the East German Fuerstenberg shipyards.

*

Fuerstenberg shipyards recently delivered four ocean-going fishing cutters fitted with 80 h.p. marine diesel engines to Vietnam. Their crews were trained in Haiphong by East German specialists.

(Advertisement)

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Odd Small-Ad

"American, middle-aged, would like to enter into correspondence with SS army auxiliary girl. Letters in English sought. Offers under No. 402."

Advertisement in the June number of the West German magazine "Wiking Ruf", published by the Mutual Aid Association of Former SS Men.

War Criminal Freed

Walter Funk, one of the leading nazi war criminals imprisoned after sentencing at the Nuremberg Trials in 1946, was released from the four-power prison at Spandau in Berlin on May 15th.

Funk, who was Hitler's minister of economics, was originally sentenced to life imprisonment after being found guilty of crimes against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

Following Funk's release the war crimes prison houses only three prisoners: Baldur von Schirach, Hitler Youth leader (20 years); Albert Speer, nazi arms minister (20 years); and Rudolf Hess, Hitler's deputy (life imprisonment).

The prison at Spandau, in the British sector of Berlin, is today certainly the most expensive prison in the world, per head of prisoners. Apart from the military guards the prison employs eleven cooks, fourteen kitchen maids, ten waiters, three administrators and two washerwomen. Administrative costs per year are calculated at £ 85,000.

Political Roundup

Government delegations from several socialist countries, and fraternal delegations from the important Communist Parties of France and Italy visited the German Democratic Republic for discussions with government and Socialist Unity Party leaders during May and June.

As this issue of GERMAN REPORT was going to press a Polish Government delegation headed by Party Secretary Wladyslaw Gomulka and Prime Minister Cyrankiewicz was engaged in discussions in East Berlin.

One of the main points made by the communiques issued after the various top-level meetings was the need for increased cooperation between the Communist and workers' parties of the various country, and a common determination to support all feasible plans for banning atom bombs and for achieving progress in the field of disarmament.

SURPRISE FOR WALES

East German Soccer Goes Places

By A. Fleischhacker

When the players returned to their dressing-rooms after the GDR—Wales football match in the first round of the World Cup on May 19th in Leipzig, reporters from East and West Germany as well as from the United Kingdom already jammed the entrance doors. Questions were fired at players, trainers and managers. John Charles, one of the most "valuable" players of today, said he was surprised about the strength of our team which, as will be remembered, beat Wales 2 to 1.

This was by no means our first victory in international matches; Poland, Rumania and Bulgaria have all lost to our team. But never before have our boys faced such serious opposition as Wales. The result is good enough proof that our team has learned a lot in the last few years and now has a good chance against any western team.

It certainly is not our fault that not more matches are played against these countries. At Easter our boys were ready to board the plane for Ankara. Everything had been fixed up weeks before, but at the last moment the Turkish government refused visas to our players.

Football is the most popular sport in East Germany. There is a first division league with 14 teams, the same number in the second division, 28 teams in the third division North and South, 14 more county divisions and a special league for the Berlin football clubs. Apart from these, there are hundreds of factory teams, who do not play regularly but enjoy it just the same. A short while ago, when a daily paper in Leipzig sponsored a cup for the best factory team in the city, 126 teams entered for it.

The season runs from about the beginning of April till October or November. We used to play from autumn till spring too, but in the last few years frozen playing fields, snowstorms and severe cold made these games dangerous, players were often badly hurt and football fans preferred to sit at home beside the stove. There is a midsummer break in July and August, as it is too hot then in any case; besides, football players like to spend their holidays with their families in the summer season too.

The clubs are organised in the factories, sometimes three or four factories of the same kind forming one club. Just recently a United Sports Organisation, the Deutsche Turn und Sport Bund, was founded. All football clubs are affiliated with it.

Who supports the clubs, where do they get their money from, who pays trainers and so on? The factory managements help them financially, from profits, supply training facilities and help to lay out football grounds. If profits exceed the planned amount the club gets a larger share. In addition the Free German Trade Union Federation provides a fixed sum from its funds to assist factory sports clubs as well as clubs in machine and tractor stations and agricultural cooperatives. Part of the gate receipts are also handed over to the clubs.

Players, all amateurs, have to do their day's work like everybody else, so of course they cannot be expected to spend every Sunday — year in and year out — on the football field.

But the boys of the national team, which is mainly recruited from two first division teams — the Wismut miners' and the People's Army team — get a chance to train together before big matches, and they are paid just as if they were at work. But they receive no other money.

A couple of years ago many West German teams were better than ours. But this year, during the Easter holiday, fourteen games were played between first division teams in East and West Germany, an equal number of games at home and away. We won 5, lost 5 and drew 4 games. Not bad — and it only goes to prove that the German Democratic Republic is a force to be reckoned with in football too.

Catholic Church & Elections

Catholic voters may definitely not vote for Social Democratic candidates at the forthcoming West German general elections, the Bishop of Muenster declared on June 2nd.

"A practising Catholic cannot reconcile with his conscience a vote for the Social Democratic Party" the bishop stated, addressing a meeting of the Catholic Workers' Association in Rheinhausen.

In preparation for the general elections, scheduled for September pastoral letters have been read in many churches in the Catholic parts of West Germany urging all communicants to work and vote for the re-election of Chancellor Konrad Adenauer.

WAS SPEIDEL A REGICIDE?

NATO commander General Hans Speidel organised the assassination of King Alexander of Yugoslavia and Foreign Minister Louis Barthou of France in Marseilles on October 9th 1934, the East German newspaper "Neues Deutschland" claimed on May 23rd.

The newspaper stated that it was in possession of documentary proof that the murder, which was carried out by a Macedonian named Cernovenski, had been planned and organised by General Speidel, who at that time worked in the nazi embassy in Paris.

(From "Punch" London)

You Ask – We Answer

PRACTICAL YEAR FOR STUDENTS

I have read that all prospective university students in East Germany are now to do a year's compulsory work on the land or in a factory before they can start their studies. Is this true?

P. S., Ipswich

Yes, this pre-university working year is to be introduced gradually throughout East Germany, starting this year. There have been signs of late that some students — even those who are themselves children of workers and peasants — have been getting a little above themselves, and the main idea of the working year is to make sure that future students have an idea of what work — and especially work under conditions of Socialist construction — really means.

We quote here the main points in an explanatory article by Dr. Wilhelm Girnus, Secretary of State for Higher Education, which appeared recently in "Neues Deutschland".

"Young students in the German Democratic Republic today are to live the life of the workers for one year; they are to do the same work for the same pay — on the railways, in the building trade or on the land — so that they will be in no danger of forgetting whose work makes it possible for them to eat and live and go away for holidays. We want educated, energetic people actuated by a socialist ethical idea in the German Democratic Republic; but this socialist ethical idea can only develop in close connection with socialist practice.

"This is the meaning of the 'practical year' which is now being introduced in stages and which every prospective student will have to complete satisfactorily before he is accepted in a university. The main aim of this practical year is not so much to acquaint students with technical details of the production process as to bring them into contact with the working class and with the general aspects of socialist production.

"The practical year thus has a high educational aim. It would therefore not be appropriate to consider the employment of prospective students purely from the point of view of their future branch of study. Of course it would be perfectly correct for future students of agriculture to work on the land, and to send future students of chemistry, engineering, shipbuilding etc. to work in these industries.

"But it would be quite wrong, for instance, to send future doctors to 'occupy themselves' in clinic laundries, or to employ students of German literature in publishing houses or art historians in museums. This would actually negate the main educational aim. They should go to work in big socialist enterprises and it will do a student of German literature, for instance, no harm to learn how to spread manure on a state-owned farm. This work will give him a far better insight into the importance of farm workers in literature. But no-one should be forced to work on the land; a person who does not like country life would be quite out of place there.

"The practical year, spent working with the workers in the socialist production process, thus provides a partial basis for selection and an opportunity to influence and to form an opinion on the character of prospective students.

"The references provided by their employers at the end of prospective students' practical year will contain an estimate both of character and of practical work, and will serve as a basis for the final decision on suitability for higher study."

WHY RUSSIAN?

I understand that one of the complaints made by East German students was connected with compulsory Russian language study. Can you tell me more about this?

G. B., Belfast

Apart from some rather extreme demands that Russian language courses should be done away with altogether in the universities, and English or French put in its place, there have been very reasonable criticisms of the formal way in which Russian was being taught and at the disproportionate neglect of Western languages.

Some important changes have therefore been introduced this year. Russian remains the required language for all students, since it is and will remain the principal language of communication between the socialist countries. But there will now be three grades in examinations; students of journalism or nuclear physics, for instance, will be required to pass a stiff examination in Russian, since a good reading knowledge of the language is essential for their studies. Medical and language students, on the other hand, need not necessarily have such detailed knowledge.

A second foreign language will in future also be required, but this can only be introduced gradually, along with improved language teaching in the high schools. The choice of the second required language will be between English, French, Spanish and Italian, according to students' inclinations, previous knowledge and requirements for their main branch of study.

Language study is now to be planned within the separate faculties — a very welcome change, since emphasis can be laid on special requirements in reading and research in the various faculties.

A large number of new language courses of varying lengths, but all aimed to reach the same examination standards, are to be opened. This will mean that more advanced students will not be held back by having to attend the same classes as beginners.

There will be three grades of examinations in all languages, the required grade depending on the use to which the individual student can put his knowledge within the framework of his main studies. Examinations will set minimum standards and students must have passed the requisite examination not later than the beginning of their final study year. They can sit earlier if they wish, and students with obviously exceptional knowledge may be exempted altogether at the discretion of lecturers.

These changes are a significant break-away from former rather rigid standards, and they will certainly be a real help in coordinating students' knowledge of foreign languages with their real needs and providing them with practical possibilities for broadening their studies.

ERNST BUSCH – SINGER OF SOCIALISM

Just fifty years ago, on May Day 1907, a thin-faced seven-year-old stepped up onto the platform at a May Day demonstration of the Social Democratic Party in Kiel, and in his clear young voice sang the second verse of the International:

"No saviours from on high deliver,
No trust have we in prince or peer,
Our own strong hands our chains will shiver,
Chains of misery, greed and fear."

The singer was Ernst Busch, today feted in London, Paris, Berlin and Moscow as probably the greatest living German actor, and known all over Germany and far beyond her borders as one of the greatest singers and interpreters of working class songs.

Ernst Busch incorporates in his person a good slice of German working class history. His father, a bricklayer, was a veteran of the Social Democratic movement, and the young Ernst soon made his own name in the movement. At the age of 17, as an engineering apprentice, he was district secretary of the Socialist Youth organisation, and one year later, in November 1918, when the German revolution broke out in his home town of Kiel, he marched and fought side by side with the revolutionary sailors of the Kaiser's fleet.

Soon after the revolution he got his first chance in the theatre; he showed great natural talent, and soon moved on from the provincial theatre in Kiel to Berlin. Here, in the early twenties, he appeared in dozens of parts: a mere listing of the plays in which he appeared is like a history of the great theatrical renaissance in the Berlin of the 1920's.

And here he met for the first time Bertolt Brecht, great German dramatist and great socialist who died last year. It was the foundation for a life-long friendship, and in cooperation with Brecht and composer Hanns Eisler he really came into his own. He continued to appear on the stage, in Brecht's "Threepenny Opera", where he was the first interpreter of the world-famous song "Mack the Knife", and as a young revolutionary in Brecht's dramatisation of Gorkis "Mother". But he did not only appear on the theatre stage: at every anti-nazi demonstration, at every meeting of the Berlin unemployed, Busch was there, singing the songs of revolt written by Brecht to music by Hanns Eisler: songs which went round the world like the song of the United Front:

"A man is only human
He must eat before he can think
The emancipation of the working class
Is a matter of food and drink.
Then left, right, left,
Then left, right, left
There's a job that you can do
Join with us in the workers' united front
For you are a worker too."

Somehow, apart from his work on the stage, and his almost daily appearances at political meetings, Busch found time to make films too. Most famous of his films was the classic "Kameradschaft", directed by G. W. Pabst, the enormously moving story of the international solidarity of French and German miners at a time of disaster.

The nazis, quite naturally, hated him, and when Hitler came to power in 1933 Busch, like so many other working class fighters, had to flee. In Holland, and later in Moscow, he sang his songs of revolt over the radio to his comrades in Germany. When Franco rose against the Spanish Republic in 1936, Busch hurried to Spain, and a very high proportion of the songs of the International Brigades were written or popularised by Ernst Busch. The gramophone records he made in Spain, roughly made and poorly recorded in a studio often shaken by the detonation of fascist bombs, are a living record of that great fight against the forces of international reaction.

When Franco triumphed, Busch fled again to France. Here, after Hitler had invaded France, he was handed over to the nazis. In the nazi prison at Brandenburg he was seriously wounded in an air raid, but he survived the war. When the war ended, he sang again, with his face half paralysed as the result of his wounds, and acted again.

Again, a recital of the parts he played in post-war Berlin would be like a history of the post-war German theatre. Mephisto in Goethe's Faust, Fucik in the biographical study of the great Czech resistance hero, and leading roles in nearly all the plays staged by Bertolt Brecht's "Berliner Ensemble".

With the Berliner Ensemble Ernst Busch travelled to Paris, to London, and, in May 1957 to Moscow, acting in Brecht's plays "Mother Courage", the "Caucasian Chalk Circle", and finally in the title role of Brecht's "Galileo Galilei". Most critics are agreed that this was, so far, the high point of Busch's career.

And today, as for the whole of his life, Busch is acting and singing for the greatest of all causes — the emancipation of mankind.

IS THERE A SECOND INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION? . . .

For readers interested in theoretical questions we print below extracts from two articles by well-known East German economists, for and against the definition "second industrical revolution".

"YES" says Heinz Brandt

Does automation — combined with the use of nuclear energy — mean a similar industrial upheaval as the earlier replacement of the manufacturing system by the machine system? Is a second industrial revolution taking place? . . .

One must of course be clear about the classical industrial revolution in England. (Here the author refers to Karl Marx' chapter on machinery and big industry — "Capital" Vol. I, chapter 13 — to the effect that a revolution in the instruments of labour — a technical revolution — was the starting-point of the industrial revolution of the 18th century, that this was followed by a basic change in social relationships in industry, and that it was at that time a question of the change-over from hand to machine tools) . . .

Marx was referring to the discovery of the spinning machine, not to the steam engine, as many people think. It was the creation of the machine tool which in its turn made the steam engine necessary. Both together created big industry. The whole production process and factory organisation underwent a basic change. No sphere of economy remained untouched; the revolution in the production process took place in agriculture and in the transport system as well as in industry. The manufacturing worker became the industrial worker. The split in society into two main classes, bourgeoisie and proletariat, followed . . . The industrial revolution transformed capitalist manufacture into capitalist big industry . . .

Many are of the opinion today that there has been a steady evolutionary development, an unbroken stream of technical improvements, ever since the discovery of the machine, and that automation and the application of nuclear energy are only further milestones along the same road. But I believe that a leap forward in technical development, a genuine qualitative change, can be demonstrated.

When at that time the machine took the place of hand tools in England, work productivity increased with a leap — for two reasons — a man can only work with one tool, but the machine tool is a mechanism combining a number of tools which are set simultaneously in motion . . . Machinery broke through human boundaries, but only in relation to human muscular capacity. And thus things remained almost up to the present. Constant modernisation of machinery and new sources of power such as the turbine or motor did not alter this basic fact . . . until a machine of a quite new type was invented — the fully automatic machine driven by means of thermionic valves or transistors.

What is qualitatively new about this type of machine? Again the physical human boundaries have been broken through — this time in two ways — and a corresponding leap forward in work productivity results. The fully automatic machine replaces both physical and mental human functions. Thermionic valves and transistors react to impulses a million times faster than the human sensory organs react to physiological stimuli. An electronic ready-reckoner completes within hours calculations which could only be worked out by a human brain in hundreds of years.

The automat thus goes far beyond the frontiers of human reaction capacity and the human tempo in uniform and mechanical mental work. It not only powers work productivity on the mental and physiological plane but, also because of this, effects a new and tremendous speeding-up in the whole work process. Hitherto man himself has blocked speed and capacity in the continuous work process. But electronic steering, measuring and regulating techniques now replace the service, control and directing functions of man. Machinery is no longer limited to conformity with man's capacity.

Of course the automat cannot think for itself or replace man's creative mental work. It operates according to programme, and the actual creative mental activity of man in the production process consists in preparing and planning work. Moreover more and more of the mechanical part of this programme can be worked out by electronic calculating machinery.

But another comparison can here be drawn with the industrial revolution in England. As we have seen, the machine tool — as a qualitatively new instrument of work — required a new type of power, the more powerful steam engine. The qualitatively new instrument of today, the electronic-steered automat, requires a qualitatively new and inexhaustible source of energy . . . nuclear energy.

(Here the author lists new possibilities in transport, use of radiation energy, future perspectives in atomic power production etc., and is definitely of the opinion that this new technical-scientific revolution fulfils the definition of a "second" industrial revolution. He points out, however, some parallels which cannot be drawn between the first and second industrial revolutions):

First, the new industrial revolution creates no new class for itself, as was the case in the first industrial revolution; but there does follow a structural change within the working class in the production process . . . Secondly, the new industrial revolution does not in capitalist countries lead to a new perspective for capitalism . . . The basic contradiction between increasingly socialised production and private capitalist accumulation deepens . . . increases the urgency of social revolution although in quite new political and social forms; socialist seizure of power, for instance, may in certain circumstances be possible by parliamentary means.

The application of new, revolutionary instruments of labour requires enormous investments; a higher level of socialisation of production is reached at a bound . . . This process makes socialisation of control and direction ever more necessary. More than ever before the change-over to socialism, the socialisation of the decisive means of production becomes a social necessity.

In this process, the fight for reduced working hours and for democratic control of atomic industry and of the commando positions in economy as a whole (through factory committees, trade unions, parliaments etc.) achieves a particularly important mobilising, operative and organising significance. It is a question of opening up the way for the second industrial revolution.

The prospects for the second industrial revolution within the socialist world system are quite different. Here the socialised means of production and corresponding conditions for distribution form the decisive pre-conditions for quite a different tempo of development, now for the first time really possible of achievement ... In Socialist countries it is now a question of making the fullest possible use, through good coordination of technical improvements with economic planning, of the superior opportunities offered by Socialism ...

(Abridged from an article entitled "Is there a second industrial revolution?" by Heinz Brandt, in "Wissenschaft und Fortschritt" monthly popular science magazine, April 1957).

"NO" says Professor Reinhold

In my opinion this view is incorrect. The authors first turn their attention to the nature of the "first" industrial revolution, all referring to a passage in "Capital" Vol. I in which Marx wrote that the industrial revolution of the 18th century led to a revolution in social relations in industry. This they regard as sufficient evidence to justify classifying the "first" industrial revolution as a revolution in industrial relationships, thus to some extent an internal matter.

From this angle they put the question whether the present industrial changes also lead to a basic change in industrial relationships. Since this is without doubt the case, they draw the conclusion that one must speak of a second industrial revolution today — in the sense of a second basic change in social relations in industry.

Indeed, since both in capitalist and in socialist enterprises the nature of industrial organisation changes, one can — as Heinz Brandt does in the above-mentioned article — definitely reach the conclusion that a "second" industrial revolution is taking place — in fact along the same lines — under capitalism and under socialism ...

The incorrectness of this view appears to me evident for the following reasons:

Of course the industrial revolution of the 18th century led to changes in the social relations in industry. But neither the classic Marxist nor later Marxist writers regarded this as the central point in that industrial revolution which, based on the discovery and use of the machine tool, and in this connection also of the steam engine, led to the change-over from manufacture to actual capitalist industrial production. That is, the social-industrial nature of this industrial revolution consisted in the changeover to industrial capitalism, to the final separation of society into capitalists and proletariat.

(The author points out that Engels, in "Anti-Duehring" and "The Position of the Working Class in England", and Marx and Lenin in many other statements, clearly indicated that their conception of the industrial revolution included not only the changes in factory organisation but also the revolution or transformation of bourgeois society.)

So that even the initial view of those economists who regard changes in factory organisation as the main social-economic aspect of the industrial revolution of the 18th century is false.

On the other hand if, from a social economic point of view, the main result of the industrial revolution of the 18th century was the victory of industrial capitalism, the final separation of capitalists and workers, it follows that this industrial revolution cannot be equated with present changes in industrial production.

(The author emphasises that the basic changes in modern technology are above all to be seen in the economic application of atomic energy and in automation, and that these changes can only be carried out on a broad scale if a big and stable market is assured, since they can only be introduced and maintained by enormous capital expenditure. This fixed capital cannot then be manipulated to suit fluctuating markets — as for instance human labour power can be manipulated under ordinary capitalist conditions — by dismissal, lay-offs, short time etc.)

So that without a securely planned, large and stable market the new science and technology cannot be widely applied. This big stable market can, however, only be assured under a socialist system. Apart from the fact that the necessary direction by society cannot develop adequately under capitalism, since it is hindered by private ownership of the means of production, competition and other factors, a stable market is not possible because capitalist exploitation of the workers — the mass of buyers — causes their buying power to lag behind technical developments in production.

(The author then quotes figures to show that training of essential technicians and scientists actually proceeds much faster in socialist than in capitalist countries.) This is of course not accidental, but the direct result of the socialist or capitalist order. Socialist ownership of industrial enterprises means that the socialist state, ie., society as a whole, has sufficient means at its disposal to train as many scientific and technical experts as it needs for the development of its economy. These resources are lacking in capitalist countries, as a result of private ownership of the means of production in general, and in particular on account of imperialist war policies.

These are only a few of the factors which show clearly that the changeover to socialism is today objectively more urgent than ever.

The above facts also show, in my opinion, that there can be no talk of a second industrial revolution. New technology does not bring with it an automatic change from capitalism to socialism, and its effects are also not limited to changes in industrial organisation, as some of our economists claim. This ist not the central economic effect of present developments upon productive workers. Thus the adoption of the term "second industrial revolution" must of necessity lead to confusion ...

Heinz Brandt claims, amongst other things, that the new technology makes new forms of change-over to socialism possible ... But the new possibilities of a change-over to socialism are not made possible through the new technology but because the power relationship between capitalism and socialism have changed basically in favour of socialism.

It is thus possible that in certain countries — given a corresponding strength in the position of the working class — the bourgeoisie may be prevented from resorting to civil war.

The new possibilities of a changeover to socialism are not a question of automation but of class war, a question of power relationships between the bourgeoisie — above all the monopolies — on the one hand and the working class and other working people and democratic forces on the other.

The central lesson, therefore, for the working classes in capitalist countries is that they must gather all their forces together in order to make the new knowledge in science and technology fully available to the working people in a socialist society through depriving the capitalist monopolies of their economic and political power.

(Abridged from an article by Professor Otto Reinhold in "Die Wirtschaft", May 9th 1957.)

GUEST NOTEBOOK

By Joan Becker

When I was on holiday in England this spring — after an interval of nearly nine years — I thought many of the changes I saw very pleasant, although I must admit the high prices frightened me.

I liked the attractively laid out housing estates in suburban areas; there was an individuality and colourfulness about them which our building authorities in East Germany have not yet achieved here. And the rents seemed to me quite reasonable — unlike the huge rents for apartments in London, for instance. The newest flats in East Berlin, although not so well planned or finished (our kitchen planning is very poor), have all ordinary modern conveniences and the rents are generally only about one tenth of tenants' incomes.

We travelled up to London from Harwich on a bright Monday morning, and all the way along we saw laundry cheerfully flapping in the breeze, which reminded me that the weekly wash is not a German custom. German housewives tend to collect an enormous amount of washing for about a month, or even longer, and then indulge in two or three days' back-breaking toil washing, mangling and ironing.

Sending the washing to the laundry is not so widespread and is also a pretty irritating business, especially in Berlin. There is no delivery service and the laundry disappears for at least three weeks, so that if one does not want to go dirty one must have a large stock of bed-linen and towels and wash all personal laundry at home. Nobody has ever been able to explain this mystery to me satisfactorily or to persuade me that it isn't merely a question of organisation.

Quick Service

So I gazed longingly at the trim little quick-service laundries dotted about all over London. They are wonderful for working women and for people living in small apartments where there is no room to hang out washing.

I think the solution here will be more factory laundries and more community laundries in new dwelling blocks. Some big factories have already organised laundry services with a delivery service for workers who live a long way from their work; and some new dwelling blocks have fine community laundries on the top floor. But the unfortunates who live in old houses and work in smaller concerns still have their troubles; and country districts are hardly catered for at all.

The fruit and vegetables, too, were a delight to the eye (and the palate) in England. We have been short of fresh fruit and vegetables for so long in East Germany that greengrocers — unlike florists — seem quite to have forgotten how to dress a shop window — to combine colours so as to catch and rest the shopper's eye. There are actually one or two pleasant looking greengrocers' shops in the Stalin Allee, but the general practice is just to put out what is available in wooden cases without any regard for appearances at all.

The real difficulty here is that we cannot yet import enough citrus fruits, bananas and other soft fruits, and I also suspect that our import authorities sometimes make unsuitable purchases — like buying up large quantities of apple slices in glass jars from China, which seems an unnecessarily expensive proceeding, considering the wonderful fruits we could buy from China.

Too Dear

I stayed a few days in London with an old friend whose wife would like to go back to work after a few years' interval, so she has been looking out for a nursery school for her little son. There are no vacancies in local government nursery schools so she has registered him in a private nursery which may have a vacancy next January. The fees, as I learnt to my horror, will be much higher than those paid for secondary school pupils twenty years ago! I hear that they are even closing down some government nursery schools, in various parts of England.

This seems to me most extraordinary, and certainly offers no encouragement to women to go out to work — unless they dislike their children so much that they are willing to pay to get rid of them during the day.

In East Germany the development has been in the opposite direction. There has been a steady rise in the number of places in government creches and nursery schools — from 9,564 in 1949 to 59,500 in 1955. Since then the number has gone up enormously; in 1956 the total number of places in creches was over 50,000 and in nursery schools about 340,000, including those run by the factories under the supervision of the factory trade union committees. This means that about one third of all children under school age can attend free nursery schools in East Germany.

All government nursery schools and creches are free, except for a very small charge for meals. The usual hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., but there is a skeleton staff on duty from 6 in the morning till 7 in the evening in nearly all city nurseries.

Many factories also run small weekly homes for toddlers, so that their mothers can work on late shifts, go to special training courses, have their babies comfortably in hospital and so on; and there are now nearly 200 government weekly homes for toddlers, besides a number of infants' homes, charging very reasonable fees.

But a working mother's problems are not over when children reach school age, and all East German primary schools in the cities, as well as many country schools, have school clubs — also free except for the small charge for meals — where children from 6 to 14 can do their homework and play during after-school hours. The number of these has also increased enormously since 1953, but still more are needed.

Thanks

"Captain Hans Nehmer, an executive of an East German shipping company, yesterday at Hull handed to Skipper William Woodall, of the British trawler Olvina, £ 500 as a gift from the East German insurance underwriters, to be shared among the Olvina's crew for rescuing the crew of the East German freighter Stralsund on February 8.

"When the Stralsund sank, the Olvina was racing to Hull with 12,000 stones of fish for the Saturday market. Skipper Woodall altered course and picked up the crew of 27. The delay cost the Olvina the night's tide. She was unable to market her catch until two days later, and the proceeds failed to cover her trip's expenses.

"Captain Nehmer also presented the Olvina with a wireless receiver, the gift of the Stralsund's owners, and Skipper Woodall with a personal gift of inscribed binoculars."

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